

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 14-21 are pending in the application. Claim 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,587,836 to Ahlberg et al.; and Claims 1-11 and 14-21 were allowed. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

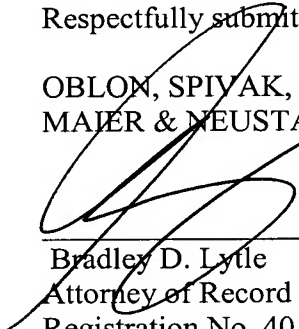
In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claims 12 and 13 are canceled, thereby rendering the above noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 moot.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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